

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 HA-05 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 /095 W
-----002447 201439Z /40

R 201203Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7500
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 1228

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SF
SUBJECT: DISSIDENT WHITES GIVEN SEVERE SENTENCES

1. ON JUNE 7 TWO WHITE ACADEMICS, TIMOTHY PETER JENKIN (29), AND STEPHEN BERNARD LEE (26), APPEARED BEFORE THE CAPE TOWN SUPREME COURT AND WERE CHARGED UNDER THE TERRORISM ACT FOR PRODUCING PAMPHLETS AND PAMPHLET BOMBS FROM THE TIME THEY RETURNED TO SOUTH AFRICA FROM ABROAD IN 1975 UNTIL THEIR ARREST IN MARCH 1978. JENKIN AND LEE WERE ALSO CHARGED UNDER THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT FOR TAKING PART IN ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS. BOTH JENKIN AND LEE PLEADED GUILTY UNDER THE TERRORISM ACT CHARGE AND NOT GUILTY UNDER THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT COUNT. DURING THE ONE-WEEK TRIAL, THE STATE PRODUCED A LARGE AMOUNT OF EQUIPMENT JENKIN AND LEE ALLEGEDLY USED TO MAKE PAMPHLETS PLUS 26 PAMPHLET BOMBS. THE PRESS AND PUBLIC WERE BANNED FROM THAT PART OF THE TRIAL WHICH WAS HELD IN CAMERA TO PROTECT THE IDENTITY OF STATE WITNESSES. NO ACTS OF VIOLENCE WERE ALLEGED AND ONE POLICEMAN TESTIFYING FOR THE STATE CONCEDED THAT THE PAMPHLET
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EXPLODING DEVICES WERE NO THREAT TO PROPERTY. ON JUNE 15, JUSTICE NEL SENTENCED JENKIN AND LEE TO 12 AND 8- YEAR PRISON SENTENCES RESPECTIVELY. NEL REJECTED A DEFENSE APPLICATION FOR LEAVE TO APPEAL AND THE ACADEMICS' ATTORNEY ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL LODGE AN APPEAL WITH THE CHIEF JUSTICE IN BLOEMFONTEIN ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE SENTENCES WERE TOO EXCESSIVE.

2. COMMENT: JENKIN AND LEE WERE APPARENTLY THE SOURCE OF THE SPATE OF PAMPHLET BOMBS IN CAPE TOWN OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS. (SENTENCES RANGING FROM 7 TO 18 YEARS WERE GIVEN THE SIX BLACK ANC MEMBERS WHO WERE RECENTLY FOUND GUILTY UNDER THE TERRORISM ACT IN PRETORIA OF CONSPIRING TO OVERTHROW THE SAG BY FORCE, UNDERGOING MILITARY TRAINING ABROAD, RECRUITING GUERRILLAS, AND, IN ONE CASE, OF LOBBING A HAND GRENADE AND INJURING TWO SOUTH AFRICAN POLICEMAN.) THE STIFF SENTENCES WERE PRESUMABLY INTENDED AS A WARNING TO YOUNG DISSIDENT WHITES NOT TO JOIN FORCES WITH BANNED BLACK ORGANIZATIONS.
RDMONDSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COURT DECISIONS, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAPET01228
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780256-1292
Format: TEL
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780638/aaaabgov.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8c9ab784-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2272642
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISSIDENT WHITES GIVEN SEVERE SENTENCES
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, PINS, SF, (JENKIN, TIMOTHY PETER), (LEE, STEPHEN BERNARD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbcr://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8c9ab784-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014